Food for Work Programme in Gujarat and Rajasthan

*246. SHRI NAGENDRA NATH OJHA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Food for Work Programme has been stopped in the drought affected States of Rajasthan and Gujarat; and

(b) if so, the details and reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU): (a) No, Sir. The Food for Work Programme has been extended upto 30th September, 2001 and is applicable to all drought affected and notified States, including Rajasthan and Gujarat.

(b) Does not arise.

Supply of raw jute for conversion

*247. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:
SHRIMATI CHANDRA KALA PANDEY:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether MMTC had proposed to NJMC on 27th April, 2001 for tie up arrangement with NJMC mills whereby MMTC would make arrangement for supply of raw jute for conversion;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether MMTC pursued the matter further *vide* their letter dated 25th May, 2001;

(d) whether MMTC, *vide* letter dated the 25th June, 2001 to Textile Ministry solicited intervention for strategic alliance between MMTC and NJMC;

(e) the reasons for delay in responding to the above offer;

(f) the present status of MMTC's proposal; and

(g) whether STC had also shown similar interest?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. MMTC *vide* its letter dated 27.04.2001 offered a